[29th January 1931

Representations regarding the taking of finger-prints of political prisoners.

*187-C Q.—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether he has received petitions or representations regarding the taking of finger-prints of prisoners from the persons convicted in connexion with the civil disobedience movement or from Superintendents of Jails; if so, by whom they were made and what were the contents of the petitions or representations so made;

(b) what action the Government have taken on the said petitions or representations; if not, whether they propose to take any;

(c) whether finger-prints are taken of all the prisoners in jails; if not, what classes of prisoners are required to give finger-prints; and

(d) the reasons for taking finger-prints of political prisoners?

A.—(a) to (d) The hon. Member is referred to the answers to questions, Nos. 105 and 187-B.

Constant transfer of Mr. T. Prakasam.

*188-A Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether Mr. T. Prakasam, Bar.-at-Law and Editor of *Swarajya*, has been transferred from jail to jail and, if so, how often and why and to what jails, together with the period of detention in each jail?

A.—The information has been called for.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Has the information been since received?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"It has not been received yet."

Policy underlying transfer of political prisoners from jails.

*188-B Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the reasons underlying the policy of the Government in the transfer of political prisoners from one jail to another?

A.—Transfer of prisoners from one jail to another within the Presidency is ordered by the Inspector-General of Prisons under rules 468—473 of the Madras Jail Manual.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I wish to bring to your notice, Sir, that I am referred in this answer to rules 468—473 of the Madras Jail Manual, and that book is not available to me for reference?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"It is in the Library; and if it is not in the Library, if my hon. Friend will kindly come to my room, I shall give him the book."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I seek your protection, Mr. President. I think a rule must be issued to the effect that if the rules to which reference is made are not available on the floor of the House, then they must be printed and made available to the House; and the question should not, for absence of reasonable facilities, be allowed to be passed over like this."